



Leatherback Turtle

Sanctuary Education Panel (SEP) Minutes – May 16th (3:30 –5:30 p.m.) MBARI

In attendance:

George Matsumoto, MBARI; Dawn Hayes and Jen Jolly, MBNMS; Fleur O Neill, Save Our Shores; Linda Hitchcock, Santa Cruz State Parks; Pat Clark Gray, Monterey State Parks; Steve Clark, MAOS.

Jamie Alanzo, New SAC Alternate and Education Panel Vice-chair was introduced to the group. Jamie gave a little background on himself: He grew up in Idaho, went to the University of Maryland MS, (his wife has her Ph.D. from UCSC), after grad school he taught and eventually landed a job with NMFS and the Foreign Fisheries Service. He was involved in juvenile salmon research and studies the reproductive biology of salmonids, and concentrated locally on Scott's Creek.

He is now with UCSC's MESA (Math Engineering and Science Achievement) as their Academic Coordinator. MESA's program targets underserved youth and he's enjoying the challenge but is amazed by the number of students who have never been to the ocean, even though they live so close by. Welcome Jamie!

SAC Report

Pat updated on the Joint Management Plan Review workshop with both GFNMS and CBNMS SACs. Professional facilitators worked with the three SACs on the JMPR process. Jamie shared his perspective as well. He was intrigued by the process and felt it was useful to have the individual interest groups working together. If you would like a copy of the JMPR Report please contact Sean Morton at sean.morton@noaa.gov.

MBNMS Staff report

Jen Jolly updated the SEP on the Student Ocean Conference, a two-day event for 6-12th grade students. The conference was a cooperative effort between MBNMS, MATE, and the MBA (as a Coastal America Learning Center with special funding from NGS). Activities included the ROV competition, the Student Summit with a career panel, a research panel and guest speakers Dr. Silvia Earl and Alan Scott. About 150 participants filled what little free time they had with workshops on GIS, ROV building, intro. to scuba and kayaking. The overnight at the aquarium was a huge success and all agreed the combined program was successful.

Team OCEAN Kayaker Outreach Program will begin training on June 7 to be on the water by the weekend of June 14-16. Each Friday, Saturday and Sunday this summer these kayaking naturalists will paddle in Monterey and Elkhorn Slough. Their goal is to educate and prevent potential marine mammal and bird harassment by overzealous visitors. Jen has been working with local kayak shops and local nonprofits to outfit and train the paid staff as well as some new

volunteers. Special thanks to Steve Shimek of the Otter Project, who has been instrumental in procuring 8 kayaks and gear for the program (approximately \$8,000 in donations).

Anniversary Events

MBNMS will host its first Volunteer Appreciation Event in honor of all those who have generously given their time to promote, protect and research the Sanctuary and its inhabitants. The SAC, its working groups (SEP, RAP, CWG and BTAP), Beach COMBERS, Volunteers for Urban Watch and Snapshot Day along with a cadre of volunteer group who help to monitor the Sanctuary are all invited to the June 8th event to be held at the Monterey Beach Hotel.

Celebrations in September

This September marks the 10th anniversary of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and you're invited to join in the celebration festivities! The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and a variety of regional partners are hosting a series of events to promote ocean awareness and conservation of the rich coastal ecosystem of central California.

Saturday, September 7, 2002 — 10th Anniversary Celebration in San Simeon

Guided kayaking trips, beach barbecue at Hearst Memorial State Beach, dedication of a new Sanctuary interpretive exhibit at the Hearst Castle Visitor Center, and dinner reception and special one-night showing of *Living Edens: Big Sur* at the National Geographic Theater. For more information, call the Sanctuary's southern office at (805) 927-2145.

Saturday September 14, 2002 — 10th Anniversary Celebration in Half Moon Bay (Festivities to be announced.) For more information call the Sanctuary's Half Moon Bay office at (650) 712-8909.

Friday, September 20, 2002 — Dinner and Panel Discussion in Monterey

From 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Marriott's Ferrante Room in Monterey. Dinner and intimate panel discussion on important ocean conservation issues hosted by Leon Panetta. For more information, call the Sanctuary's Monterey office at (831) 647-4255.

Saturday, September 21, 2002 — Oceans Fair and 10th Anniversary Celebration in Monterey

From 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Custom House Plaza. Ocean exhibits from around the nation, boat rides and tours, street performers, face painting, birthday cake, speeches by dignitaries, special hands-on children's activities including an ocean treasure hunt, puppet show and performance by children's recording artist Linda Arnold. For more information, call the Sanctuary's Monterey office at (831) 647-4255.

Saturday, September 28, 2002 — Shark Festival and 10th Anniversary Celebration in Santa Cruz

From 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Santa Cruz Wharf. Ocean exhibits and hands-on activities, live sharks, children's treasure hunt and puppet show, live music, birthday cake, and formal ceremonies. For more information call the Sanctuary's Santa Cruz office at (831) 420-1630.

M.E.R.I.T.O.

The Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (M.E.R.I.T.O.) program will kick off this summer with a Coordinator and Bilingual Education Specialist. We are in the hiring process now for these two contract positions. We expect to have the Coordinator position filled by the end of June and the Education Specialist onboard two weeks later. State Parks and Elkhorn Slough are both eager for the addition to their bilingual programming for the general public this summer and school groups this fall.

Strategic Planning

Pat outlined the process we've been through to date and how we can proceed. The National Park Service has a well thought out program for creating plans such as these and Pat proposed using the format. There was much discussion on what might be the best method to proceed, as the two proposed methods began at opposite points. It was concluded that the Sanctuary Education Staff needed to come up with its main messages for the 5-10 year period this regional plan is to be in place. Once that has been accomplished, the SEP will operate in working groups to address each message, outlining the audiences, modalities, public suggestions and priorities for each. It will not be an easy process and we will need a lot of help from SEP members. Please do make sure you are a participant, you will have the opportunity to shape the Sanctuary's programming for many years.

Dawn, Pat and Jen will work with elements of the 1998 regional planning effort, the public comments and the National Park Plan and get back to SEP members to form the smaller working groups.

The July 18 field trip to Half Moon Bay has been cancelled to accommodate the planning process. Pat and Dawn will announce the location shortly. Please plan to attend the 10am-2pm potluck meeting.

Announcement:

MBARI Open House, June 22, 1-5pm